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INTELLIGENCE NOTE

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USSR: A NIBBLE AT JEREMY STONE'S FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Fascinated by Jeremy Stone's unusual article in Foreign Affairs,* a Soviet writer has come perilously close to suggesting that domestic opposition in the USSR to Soviet arms spending might be a good idea.

Skepticism from an Unusual Quarter. Stone's article was a striking expression of skepticism about strategic arms talks from an unusual quarter. Long an opponent of American arms programs -- particularly ABMs and MIRVs -- Stone argued that excessive emphasis on SALT might blunt the edge of domestic American criticism of military spending.

Reviewed in "USA". A.G. Aleshin reviewed Stone's article in the second number of USA, the new journal of the Institute for Study of the United States. Aleshin taxes Stone with "unjustified skepticism" about SALT -- to do otherwise would be to question the raison d'être of Soviet disarmament policy and, incidentally, of Aleshin's own work. He accepts enthusiastically, however, Stone's contention of the need for vigorous domestic opposition to American military budgets. And in doing that he lays out for Soviet readers most of the contents of Stone's article.

*"When and How To Use SALT", Foreign Affairs,
January 1970. RDS for

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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A Lurking Symmetry. Soviets efforts to play upon American opposition to defense spending may have some unintended side effects. Lurking beneath Soviet press reportage of American congressional debates on weapons programs has been the question of Soviet expenditures on weapons. We have, for instance, noted how one public lecturer, after citing materials about how expensive American ABMs were, told his Soviet audience that Soviet weapons, too, were costly. Aleshin, in presenting Stone's unusually forceful argument for domestic opposition to arms budgets, brings this buried implication much closer to the surface, even though he said nothing about Soviet weapons spending as such.

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